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Agenda item 7 (h)
Coordination, programme and other questions: tobacco or health

Qatar:* draft resolution

Tobacco, poverty and the Millennium Development Goals

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting with concern the escalation in smoking and other forms of tobacco use worldwide,

Recognizing the concern of the international community about the devastating worldwide health, social, economic and environmental consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke,

Expressing concern that the rise in tobacco consumption could undermine the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging that tobacco control at all levels and particularly in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition requires sufficient financial and technical resources commensurate with the current and projected need for tobacco control activities,

Recognizing the need to develop appropriate mechanisms to address the long-term social and economic implications of successful tobacco demand reduction strategies,

Mindful of the social and economic difficulties that tobacco control programmes may engender in the medium and long term in some developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and recognizing their need for technical and financial assistance in the context of nationally developed strategies for sustainable development,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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Noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control,[1]

Welcoming the adoption of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, adopted by consensus in 2003 by all States members of the World Health Organization as the first international legal instrument designed to reduce tobacco-related deaths and disease around the world, the provisions of which establish the direction and policies which can help to reduce the damage tobacco does to health and economies,

Emphasizing the need for the expeditious entry into force of the Framework Convention and its effective implementation,

1. *Calls upon* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying, accepting, approving or formally confirming the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and upon those who have not yet signed the Framework Convention to consider acceding to it at the earliest opportunity, with a view to bringing the Framework Convention into force as soon as possible;

2. *Urges* Member States to strengthen tobacco control measures in their national programmes and to incorporate tobacco control in their Millennium Development Goals strategy in order to reduce the burden of tobacco-related diseases and to alleviate poverty;

3. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and the regional economic commissions to include tobacco control in their strategies for implementing the Millennium Development Goals and to mainstream tobacco control in their operational programmes at the country level;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the progress of the implementation of the present resolution, including on the work of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control, to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2006.

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[1] E/2004/55.